

1 H
A 29 AUG 58
C.H. 18

Library



BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

———— For the Year 1957 ————

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

E. TUFT,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT

ANNUAL REPORT


OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

———— For the Year 1957 ————

W. J. BIRCHALL,
M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

E. TUFT,
M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2017 with funding from
Wellcome Library

<https://archive.org/details/b29190897>

Annual Health Report

FOR THE YEAR 1957

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF—

Medical Officer of Health:

W. J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector:

E. TUFT, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Deputy Chief Public Health Inspector:

R. K. FRANCIS, M.R.S.H., M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

G. KINREAD, M.A.P.H.I. — G. CARR, M.A.P.H.I.

S. CLARKE, M.A.P.H.I. (Commenced 15th February, 1957 —
Resigned 6th July, 1957).

K. WADDINGTON, M.A.P.H.I.

(Commenced duties - 1st October, 1957)

Clerk: G. POWELL

Shorthand-Typist: Mrs. A. RICHARDSON

Part-time Typist: Mrs. N. BYRON

Clerk Typist: Mrs. M. ELLIS

Members of the Health Committee, 1957:

Councillor C. E. BRODIE, A.F.Inst.PET., M.R.S.H., Chairman
The Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor J. Groome, J.P., C.C.
(ex-officio)

Deputy Mayor, Alderman H. G. Black, O.B.E., J.P. (ex-officio)

Aldermen: Miss V. Crutchley, Mrs. C. Donoghue, P. H. Hall.

Councillors: E. C. Biggs, J. J. Blackwell, J. H. Broadhouse,
A. Catchpole, Mrs. E. Spruce, F. J. Wilkins.

Town Clerk:

R. J. BERNIE, LL.B.(LOND.).

REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year 1957

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS
OF THE BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT.

Your Worship, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my annual Report on the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough for the year 1957.

The local Vital Statistics show an increase in the Birth Rate, and decrease in the Death and Infant Mortality Rates. The National figures show a similar trend for the year. A summary of the main statistical items is given below, together with those for England and Wales.

The Crude Death Rate is 8.14 per 1000 estimated population, compared with 8.52 in 1956. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.5.

The Birth Rate is 21.39 per 1000 population; in 1956 the rate was 21.04. The Rate for England and Wales is 16.1.

The Infant Mortality Rate is 16.16 per 1000 live births, compared with 23.2 in 1956. The Rate for England and Wales is 23.0.

There was a widespread epidemic of Measles in the early part of the year, when 1218 cases were notified. The next infectious disease worthy of note was Whooping Cough with 66 notifications.

There were, in addition, nine cases of food poisoning and three cases of Poliomyelitis notified.

With regard to the cases of food poisoning, eight were in connection with a factory canteen and although extensive enquiries were made the causative agent was not confirmed. The outbreak was probably due to a toxin originating in one of the foods consumed.

11 fresh cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were reported compared with 10 in the previous year.

The coming into operation of the Clean Air Act placed further responsibilities upon the Chief Public Health Inspector and his staff, and it is pleasing to note that the Council are to proceed with the formation of a smoke control area. This progressive step in the drive for a cleaner atmosphere and the air we breathe will prove to be generally beneficial to all.

In the field of environmental hygiene the Chief Public Health Inspector reports a busy year complicated once again with staff problems

From the information supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board it will be noted that water softening has not yet been resumed, although it is stated the position is being reviewed.

I have previously reported upon the hardness of the water supply within the Borough and of the need for a resumption of softening operations which have been awaited for a very long time.

In the report of the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures it will be noted that of the fifty-three samples of milk taken for examination by his Department, four were reported as being adulterated, below standard or otherwise incorrect. Remarks are included in the report in connection with these samples; also three samples of flour which were reported as unsatisfactory.

An interesting example of the co-operation between National Industries and Local Authorities, is the formation of a Standing Liaison Committee sponsored by the Atomic Energy Authority at their Capenhurst works. Members of this Committee are the Town Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and Chief Public Health Inspector as well as representatives of various Ministries, Local Authorities, and other organisations.

Its purpose is mutual discussion of any problems arising between the Atomic Energy Authority and the neighbouring Local Authorities.

Included at the end of the Report is an extract from my Annual Report as Divisional Medical Officer on the Personal Health Services operating on behalf of the County Council in the South West Cheshire Division, of which the Borough of Ellesmere Port forms part.

In conclusion, I express my appreciation of the support received from the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee, and the co-operation and assistance of the Staff of the Department during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

W. J. BIRCHALL,

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS

Population	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37,580
Area (acres)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9,144
Number of houses and flats in the area	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	11,531
Rateable Value (1st April, 1958)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£737,383
Sum represented by the Penny Rate (1958/59) Estimated	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	£2,250

The Natural increase in Population (that is, excess of births over deaths) is shewn in the following tables.

Natural Increase per 1,000				Natural Increase per 1,000			
Year	Population	Population		Year	Population	Population	
1942	...	27,950	... 11.16	1950	...	32,110	... 10.33
1943	...	27,560	... 15.5	1951	...	32,670	... 7.89
1944	...	27,220	... 13.44	1952	...	33,680	... 12.29
1945	...	27,160	... 10.9	1953	...	34,470	... 13.75
1946	...	28,740	... 12.49	1954	...	35,130	... 11.04
1947	...	29,670	... 15.9	1955	...	36,010	... 12.16
1948	...	30,860	... 13.3	1956	...	36,830	... 12.51
1949	...	31,290	... 10.88	1957	...	37,580	... 13.25

The Natural Increase in Population (that is, excess of births over deaths) 1942—1957 (England and Wales)—

per 1,000 Population				per 1,000 Population			
Year				Year			
1942	...	...	... 4.2	1950	...	...	... 4.2
1943	...	...	... 4.4	1951	...	...	... 3.0
1944	...	...	... 6.0	1952	...	...	... 4.0
1945	...	...	... 4.7	1953	...	...	... 4.1
1946	...	...	... 7.6	1954	...	...	... 3.9
1947	...	...	... 8.5	1955	...	...	... 3.3
1948	...	...	... 7.1	1956	...	...	... 4.0
1949	...	...	... 5.0	1957	...	...	... 4.6

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS

for the Year 1957

(Compiled from figures supplied by the Registrar General)

LIVE BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	402	377	779
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	11	14	25
						<u>413</u>	<u>391</u>	<u>804</u>
Birth Rate per 1,000 Population						...	...	21.39
Corrected Birth Rate						...	...	20.32
Comparability Factor						...	...	0.95

STILL BIRTHS

						Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	...	...	...	...	...	7	11	18
Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	...	—	1	1
						<u>7</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>19</u>

Still birth rate 23.61 per 1,000 total live and still births or 0.50 per 1,000 of the population.

The average number of births per annum in the years 1942—1956 was 654.

TABLE OF NUMBER OF LIVE BIRTHS AND BIRTH RATES
1942 — 1956

Year	No.	Birth Rate	Year	No.	Birth Rate
1942	538	19.96	1950	614	19.31
1943	603	21.87	1951	604	18.48
1944	611	22.44	1952	674	20.01
1945	555	20.43	1953	707	20.50
1946	635	22.09	1954	692	19.70
1947	730	24.60	1955	733	20.35
1948	665	21.54	1956	775	19.98
1949	673	21.50			
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1957					
...	...	...	...	...	16.1
Birth Rate, England and Wales, 1956					
...	...	...	...	...	15.7
Birth Rate, Aministrative County of Cheshire, 1956					
...	...	...	...	...	14.98

DEATHS

Males 169

Females 137

Total 306

Death Rate 8.14, Corrected Death Rate 12.37, Comparability Factor 1.52

TABLE OF NUMBERS OF DEATHS AND DEATH RATES
1942 — 1956

Year	Number	Death Rate	Year	Number	Death Rate
1942	... 246	... 8.79	1950	... 282	... 11.76
1943	... 276	... 10.01	1951	... 346	... 10.59
1944	... 245	... 9.0	1952	... 260	... 7.71
1945	... 252	... 9.28	1953	... 233	... 8.97
1946	... 276	... 9.60	1954	... 304	... 8.65
1947	... 257	... 8.66	1955	... 295	... 8.19
1948	... 252	... 8.19	1956	... 314	... 8.52
1949	... 223	... 9.54			

The average number of deaths per annum in the years 1942 to 1956 was 270.

Death Rate, England and Wales, 11.5 per 1,000 population.

DEATH RATE OF INFANTS UNDER ONE YEAR OF AGE

	Number	Rate
All infants, per 1,000 live births	... 13	16.16
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births	... 13	16.16
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	Nil	Nil
Deaths of infants under 4 weeks of age	... 10	12.83
England and Wales per 1,000 live births, 23.0		

TABLE OF INFANT MORTALITY, 1942—1956

Year	Rate per 1,000 births	Year	Rate per 1,000 births
1942	... 35.8	1950	... 35.83
1943	... 71.3	1951	... 31.45
1944	... 34.3	1952	... 31.15
1945	... 46.85	1953	... 22.63
1946	... 55.11	1954	... 31.79
1947	... 56.16	1955	... 25.92
1948	... 33.08	1956	... 16.16
1949	... 31.20		

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	... 1
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	... 1
Deaths from Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	... 1
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	... 62

CAUSES OF DEATH

	Males	Females	Total
1. Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System	1	1	2
2. Other Tuberculosis Diseases	—	—	—
3. Syphilis	—	—	—
4. Diphtheria	—	—	—
5. Whooping Cough	1	—	1
6. Meningococcal Infections	—	—	—
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—
8. Measles	—	—	—
9. Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	—	—	—
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	5	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus ...	13	2	15
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	—	4	4
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	—	2	2
14. Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	18	12	30
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	—	1	1
16. Diabetes	—	1	1
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system ...	17	21	38
18. Coronary disease, angina	33	23	56
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ...	4	4	8
20. Other Heart Diseases	23	17	40
21. Other Circulatory disease	4	5	9
22. Influenza	4	4	8
23. Pneumonia	7	8	15
24. Bronchitis	13	3	16
25. Other Diseases of the Respiratory System	2	1	3
26. Ulcer of the Stomach and Duodenum ...	4	4	8
27. Gastritis, Enteritis, Diarrhoea	—	1	1
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis	2	—	2
29. Hyperplasia of Prostrate	2	—	2
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ...	—	—	—
31. Congenital Malformations	—	1	1
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ...	13	10	23
33. Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—	1
34. All other Accidents	2	5	7
35. Suicide	—	2	2
36. Homicide and Operations of War ...	—	—	—
Total	169	137	306

General Provision of Health Services in the Area

The following services are available:—

LABORATORY FACILITIES

The Public Health Laboratory Service at Birkenhead undertakes free bacteriological examination of milk, water and other specimens for local authorities.

Food and drugs administration is carried out by the County Council, and their officers submit samples for examination by the County Analyst.

FOOD POISONING

Nine cases occurred during the year. Eight were in connection with a factory canteen and, although, sampling of food and examination of food handlers was immediately undertaken, it was not possible to ascertain the cause of the outbreak.

The remaining case was an isolated one of a girl aged 5 years.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES

The Ambulance Service for the district operates under the direction of the South West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee of the County Council, with the help of the Chester City Ambulance acting as an agency service. The Ambulance Depot is situated in Ellesmere Port.

NURSING IN THE HOME

Two full-time District Nurses are engaged under the direction of the County Council in Ellesmere Port, and an additional one in Little Sutton.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES

These are held at the Child Welfare Centre, York Road, Ellesmere Port; the Welfare Centre, Little Sutton; the Community Centre, Overpool; and the Village Hall, Ince.

Orthopaedic; Ophthalmic; Aural; Ante and Post Natal Clinics are organised under the supervision of specialists at Ellesmere Port.

A school clinic with Dental Services is also held at the Welfare Centre, Ellesmere Port.

HOSPITALS

The Clatterbridge General and Isolation Hospitals, in addition to the Ellesmere Port and District Hospital, serve the town for most purposes.

MATERNITY

Hospital provision is at Clatterbridge, where patients are under the supervision of the Consulting Obstetrician who attends the ante-natal clinics at the Welfare Centre.

In addition there is a separate maternity home at Heswall.

MIDWIVES

There are five midwives practising in the District, all of whom are employed by the County Council.

SECTION 47, NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT

The provisions of the above Act enable a Local Authority to apply for the compulsory removal to a hospital or County Council Hostel of aged and infirm persons who are in need of care and attention and are unable to care for themselves. A number of such cases were investigated and were recommended for accommodation in Hospitals or County Council Hostels and agreed to removal. No application for compulsory removal has been necessary in 1957.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The prevalence of Infectious Diseases during the period of 1948—1957 is shewn in the following table, which gives the case rate per 1,000 of the population .

Year	Scarlet		Enteric		Erysipelas		Measles		Whooping	
	Fever	Diphtheria	Fever						Cough	
1948	1.32	0.16	0.00		0.20		2.68		1.74	
1949	1.60	0.00	0.06		0.09		10.87		4.12	
1950	1.21	0.06	0.00		0.09		10.18		4.17	
1951	1.68	0.06	0.00		0.18		11.78		2.84	
1952	0.71	0.00	0.00		0.23		14.57		7.77	
1953	1.68	0.029	0.00		0.34		6.03		2.52	
1954	0.48	0.00	0.00		0.05		21.58		4.32	
1955	1.11	0.00	0.00		0.03		11.48		5.58	
1956	1.35	0.00	0.05		1.06		8.09		4.20	
1957	0.10	0.00	0.00		0.10		32.41		1.75	

TABLE SHOWING DISTRIBUTION IN WARDS OF NOTIFIABLE DISEASE CASES

Disease	Central		Grange		Victoria		Westminster		Stanlow		Poole		Sutton		Whitby		Total	
Scarlet Fever	1		1		—		—		1		—		1		—		4	
Measles	91		143		158		88		101		366		210		61		1218	
Whooping Cough	1		7		10		1		5		25		15		2		66	
Pneumonia	9		6		5		2		4		3		1		2		32	
Erysipelas	—		1		—		—		—		1		—		2		4	
Dysentery	1		4		3		—		6		—		1		2		17	
Tuberculosis Pulmonary	2		—		3		1		—		1		2		2		11	
Tuberculosis Others	—		—		1		—		—		—		2		—		3	
Puerperal Pyrexia	1		1		—		—		—		1		—		—		3	
Food Poisoning	1		—		1		—		6		1		—		—		9	
Poliomyelitis	—		—		—		—		—		—		2		—		3	
Acute Encephalitis	—		—		—		1		1		—		1		—		2	
Total	107		163		181		93		124		398		235		71		1372	

TABLE OF AGE GROUPS SHOWING THE TOTAL NOTIFIED CASES — 1957

	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Acute Poliomyelitis				Measles		Dysentery	
	M	F	M	F	Paralytic		Non-Paralytic		M	F	M	F
					M	F	M	F				
Under 1 year	—	—	2	4	—	—	—	—	14	15	3	1
1 year	1	—	4	3	—	—	—	—	25	27	—	—
2 years	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	91	83	1	1
3 years	—	—	1	3	—	—	—	—	85	93	2	—
4 years	—	—	4	7	—	—	—	—	100	93	—	—
5—9 years	1	1	12	17	—	1	—	—	283	267	2	2
10—14 years	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	8	—	—
15—24 years	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	1	—
25 years and over	—	—	2	2	1	—	—	—	1	1	1	2
Age Unknown	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	16	6	1	—
Total all ages	3	1	27	39	1	1	1	—	623	595	11	6

	Acute Pneumonia		Acute Encephalitis		Post-Infectious		Erysipelas		Food Poisoning	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Under 5 years	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5—14 years	3	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
15—44 years	2	4	—	1	—	—	2	1	6	—
45—64 years	7	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
65 years and over	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Total all ages	16	16	1	1	—	—	3	1	8	1

TUBERCULOSIS

	Respiratory		Meninges & C.N.S.		Others		PUERPERAL PYREXIA	
	M	F	M	F	M	F		
Under 5 years	—	—	—	—	—	1		
5—14 years	—	1	—	—	—	—		
15—24 years	—	—	—	—	—	—		
25—44 years	1	3	—	—	—	—		
45—64 years	3	—	—	—	1	—		
65 years and over	2	1	—	—	—	—		
Age Unknown	—	—	—	—	—	1		
Total all ages	6	5	—	—	1	2		

Sanitary Circumstances

WATER SUPPLY

The mains of the West Cheshire Water Board supply the entire area, and from them there is a plentiful supply of excellent water.

The supply is laid into the houses with the following exception:—a bungalow and two cottages at Great Sutton served by one stand-pipe. A number of houses in the Parish of Ince also obtain water through stand-pipes, the remainder having a piped supply laid into the houses.

The water throughout the district is in a piped supply from the pumping stations at Hooton, Prenton and Mouldsworth. Softening operations have been temporarily suspended at the Hooton Pumping Station as well as at Prenton and Mouldsworth.

During the year, 81 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, and 15 samples for Chemical Analysis from the flamed tap in the softening house of the three pumping stations.

The following are the results of a sample of water taken for bacteriological examination from the pumping station at Mouldsworth on the 8th October, 1957, and this is a fair specimen of the average result from all 81 samples throughout the year.

Similarly appended is a copy of the analyst's report on the chemical analysis of a sample taken from the pumping station at Hooton on the 9th April, 1957. All samples taken from the Water Board's pumping stations were hard in character, though not to a degree which could be considered unsatisfactory.

Bacteriological Report

on the

Examination of a Sample of Water

Received: 9th October, 1957. From WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD.

Labelled: Mouldsworth Pumping Station, Flamed Tap near Cottages.

Date: 8/10/57, 11.50 a.m. Taken by R. J. Elam.

Witness: S. Crawford. Signed: R. J. Elam.

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in one day ... 0

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 37°C. in two days ... 0

Number of Colonies per cubic centimetre or millilitre
of water growing upon Agar at 20°C. in three days 0

Smallest quantity of water producing acid and gas in
Bile-Salt Lactose Broth after two days in-
cubation at 37°C. (Presumptive Bacillus Coli
Test) ... Absent from 100 ml.

Smallest quantity of water containing the Bacillus
Coli ... Absent from 100 ml.

Smallest quantity of water giving the reaction to the
B. Welchii (Bacillus Enteritidis Sporogenes)
Absent from 100 ml.

This sample is clear and bright in appearance and of very satisfactory bacterial purity indicative of a wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

17th October, 1957.

Chemical Analysis

on the

Examination of a Sample of Water

Analysis of a sample of Water received on the 1st April, 1957, from WEST CHESHIRE WATER BOARD, labelled: Hooton Pumping Station - No. 7 Borehole tap on rising main - untreated water.

Taken by: R. J. Ellam. Witness: L. Boothman. Date: 9/4/57, 1.00 p.m.

Chemical Results in parts per Million.

Appearance: Clear and bright.

Turbidity: Nil

Colour: Nil

Odour: Nil

pH: 7.3

Free Carbon Dioxide: 18

Electric Conductivity : 495

Total Solids: 330

Chlorine present as Chloride: 33 Alkalinity as Calcium Carbonate 205

Hardness: Total, 235 Carbonate: 205 Non-Carbonate: 30

Nitrate Nitrogen: 4.8

Nitrite Nitrogen: less than 0.01

Ammoniacal Nitrogen: 0.000

Oxygen Absorbed: 0.00

Albuminoid Nitrogen: 0.000

Residual Chlorine:

Metals: Absent

REPORT

This sample is clear and bright in appearance, neutral in reaction and free from iron and other metals. The water is hard in character but not unduly so and it contains no excess of salinity or mineral constituents in solution. It is of the highest standard of organic quality.

From the aspect of the chemical analysis these results are indicative of a pure and wholesome water suitable for public supply purposes.

(Signed) GORDON MILES.

17th April, 1957.

The following information has been supplied by the Engineer to the West Cheshire Water Board.

1. Particulars of any new sources of public supply.

The new Treatment Works at Green Lane, Great Sutton, was substantially completed by the end of the year. Treated water was pumped into supplies in January, 1958 for the first time.

2. Improvements to existing sources of public supply.

Nil.

3. Any important extensions of mains.

Within your Council's area, further extensions of mains have been carried out on the North Whitby Estate and to certain private estates. The new 21-in. pumping main was laid between the new works at Great Sutton and Hooton.

4. Have pipe supplies been satisfactory in quality and quantity?

Routine Chemical/Bacteriological Analyses have been taken at regular intervals throughout the year. All have shown the supplies to be pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply purposes.

On the 21st June it was found necessary to restrict pressure between certain hours of the day, in an effort to save water. The restrictions, together with a change in the weather, resulted in a marked improvement in the supply situation, and normal supplies were restored on the 3rd July.

5. Is any part of the District in need of an improved water supply?

The position in the Borough is satisfactory.

6. Information as to the resumption, or otherwise, of water softening treatment for domestic supply.

It was not possible to resume softening at sources during the year. The position is now being reviewed.

7. Non-Potable Supplies.

Work on a new storage reservoir for raw water continued throughout the year at Ince.

It is now estimated that approximately 4 million gallons per day of untreated river water are supplied to industrial premises within the Borough.

Sampling of Food and Drugs

The Chief Inspector of the Weights and Measures Department of the Cheshire County Council has kindly supplied me with the following particulars of samples obtained in the Borough of Ellesmere Port, and forwarded to the Public Analyst during the year ended 31st December, 1957.

LIST OF SAMPLES OBTAINED IN THE BOROUGH OF ELLESMERE PORT: YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

Sample	No. obtained	No. reported against (adulterated below standard or otherwise incorrect).
Butter	2	—
Boric Acid Ointment	1	—
Currants	2	—
Camphorated Oil	2	—
Codeine Tablets	1	—
Cod Liver Oil	2	—
Cream	2	—
Dripping	1	—
Epsom Salts	1	—
Flour	4	3
Fish Paste	1	—
Fish Dressing	1	—
Glycerine	3	—
Grape Fruit Squosh	1	—
Jam	1	—
Lemon Cheese	1	—
Liquorice Powder	1	—
Milk	53	4
„ Condensed	1	—
Olive Oil	3	—
Prunes	1	—
Sultanas	1	—
Sugar	1	—
Soup Powder	1	—
Surgical Spirit	3	—
Shredded Beef Suet	1	—
Sausage (Pork) P.D.	1	—
Sausage (Beef) P.D.	1	—
Sausagemeat (Beef)	1	—
Strawberries (Tinned)	2	—
Whiskey	1	—
	98	7

LIST OF NON-STANDARD SAMPLES

Sample.	Result of Analysis			Remarks
1. Plain Flour	Excess of creta praeparata			No action
2. Plain Flour	„	„	„	„ „
3. Plain Flour	„	„	„	„ „
4. Milk	1.1 %	deficient in solids-not-fat		Abnormal, no action
5. Milk	1.1 %	„	„	„ „
6. Milk	2.3 %	„	„	„ „
7. Milk	1.1 %	„	„	„ „

Regarding the plain flour samples the Public Analyst in his report to the Weights and Measures, Food and Drugs Acts, Committee of the County Council states:—

“ During the milling of white flour the natural contents of iron, vitamin BI (Aneurine), nicotine acid and calcium in the wheat become concentrated in the rejected products, and the Regulations provide for the artificial replacement of these components to the flour; chalk (creta praeparata) and a “master mix” containing iron and the two specified vitamins must be added in prescribed quantities.

No difficulty in incorporating the combined mixture of iron and vitamins has been reported, but it is known to be difficult to mix small quantities of chalk uniformly throughout a large bulk of flour. Hence, some variation in the chalk content of samples may be anticipated and it does not necessarily imply non-conformity with the Regulations unless chalk is found to be regularly deficient or regularly in excess in the product of an individual firm ”.

ANNUAL REPORT

of the

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

For the Year 1957

To: THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN and COUNCILLORS of the
BOROUGH COUNCIL OF ELLESMERE PORT.

Your Worship, Lady and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting this Annual Report in respect of work carried out by the department, relative to the environmental health services for which we are responsible.

It has been a busy year with staff difficulties again occurring, although it is now hoped, with the appointment made towards the close of the year to fill the vacancy of a Public Health Inspector, the staff position will become more settled.

Housing in various ways has received close attention during the year and in connection with the slum clearance programme, five clearance areas involving twenty-five houses were submitted to the Committee and Council for confirmation. They were approved in each instance.

The work in Food Hygiene, whilst somewhat restricted for the reasons stated in the report, has however continued. A total of seven hundred food handlers since the inception of the scheme in 1951, have attended the full course of four lectures and been granted their Food Hygiene Certificates. A further hundred and fifty have attended a part of the course. This educational feature is considered to be of some importance in the aim to establish and maintain a good standard in food hygiene.

Close attention has been paid to problems arising from Atmospheric Pollution, and proposals for the establishment of a smoke control area are in hand.

The holding of a Clean Air Exhibition in January, 1958, proved most successful, and appreciation is expressed for the help and support received in this new venture.

The duties of the department in the field of environmental hygiene are many and varied in character, often involving several Committees, and it is hoped a perusal of the report will give some indication of the problems dealt with during the year.

In conclusion I would like to thank the members of the Health Committee and Borough Council for the confidence and consideration shown to me, and to the staff for their loyalty and endeavour, without whom this report could not have been possible. I also express appreciation to the Town Clerk for his help and support, and my thanks to the other Chief Officers.

Yours faithfully,

E. TUFT,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

Summary of Inspections

Nature of Inspections	Number
Dwelling Houses (General)	442
Dwelling Houses (Slum Clearance)	254
Rent Act, 1957	116
Housing Survey	45
Housing Act, 1949, Section 4	24
Housing Act, 1936, Section 79 — ..	15
Improvement Grant	62
Rehousing Priority Applications—Inspections ..	42
Other Visits ..	16
Reinspections to work in progress	922
Schools	6
Caravans, etc.	22
Slaughterhouse	588
Food Premises (General)	778
Public Market	714
School Canteens	3
Factory Canteens	27
Licenced Premises	3
Dairies & Milk Distributors	82
Samples submitted for Bacteriological Examination:	
Milk	32
Rinse Water (Catering Est.)	35
Ice-cream	52
Other Foods	10
Swimming Pool Water	4
Drinking Water	25
Swabs	25
Factories: Mechanical	5
Non-mechanical	—
Water Supply	62
Industrial Plant (Atmospheric Pollution) ..	61
Special Observations re Atmospheric Pollution	480
Proposed Smoke Control Area	207
Dust Bins	626
Sewage Installations	14
Drainage: Inspections and Tests	232
Ditches and Watercourses	88
Offensive Accumulations	23
Piggeries	12
Infectious Diseases: Enquiries	107
Other Visits	138
Disinfections	47
Pest Control: Inspections and Disinfestations ..	1551
Shops Act	165
Barbers and Hairdressers	2
References to other Departments and	
Miscellaneous Visits	755
Interviews	1031
Refuse Disposal Sites	20
Pet Animals Act (Shop Inspections)	4
Former Military Camp Sites	3
TOTAL ..	9937

Housing

This complex problem has once again continued throughout the year under review to command the active and close attention of the Health Committee and the Department.

The responsibility in this branch of public health work is of considerable importance involving as it does the housing circumstances of the inhabitants of the Borough.

Its importance is also shown in legislation whether it be new housing, reconditioning of old property, slum clearance, improvement schemes, repairs or overcrowding. They are all considered a primary responsibility of the Health Committee and must of necessity occupy a prominent place in the environmental health services.

The Health Committee and the Borough Council are fully cognizant of the many aspects of the difficulties encountered, and have expressed their desire to avail themselves of existing powers, whenever necessary, in their endeavours to secure decent housing conditions for the community.

It is regretted that very few applications continue to be made in respect of improvement grants within the provisions of the Housing Acts. This, it is felt is simply due to the applicant's inability to provide their own proportion for the improvement and the cost of repairs required to be completed before the grant can be made.

The scheme envisaged in last year's report for the acquisition and improvement of sub-standard houses in the Westminster Ward has unfortunately made very little progress. A visit was paid to the Borough by a Technical Officer of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government, following the submission of a pilot scheme affecting two houses. In consequence of this visit and of correspondence with the Ministry, it has now been decided that initially a scheme for eight houses be prepared and submitted for approval.

With staff problems and pressure of other duties such a scheme has not yet been prepared but it is hoped one will be completed within the very near future.

The type of property affected was shown in the form of a photograph in last year's report.

Several owners have reiterated a keen desire to dispose of their houses to the Council for these improvements to be made which in itself reflects to some extent an attitude amongst a section of Owners of having no further interest in the property.

With the two remaining tenants having been rehoused in nearby pensioners' bungalows recently completed, the three small cottages adjacent to the first Clearance Area in the Westminster Ward have been demolished and the site cleared at the time of writing this report.

In consequence of a resolution from Health Committee to the Housing Committee, the Borough Engineer & Surveyor is to prepare a scheme for the development of the sites for housing purposes.

This will no doubt provide a useful adjunct for the housing needs in that Ward.

Four houses still remain tenanted in the No. 5 Clearance Area/Order — Union Street/Back Union Street, Westminster Ward. These remaining tenants have expressed a strong desire to be rehoused in their own ward which is understandable particularly when old people have resided in the same house for many years and do not wish to move very far from their old surroundings.

Nevertheless it is presenting quite a problem owing to the restricted housing accommodation available in that area.

The Housing Committee, however, have expressed their willingness to carry out the wishes of these tenants in this matter if it is at all possible.

The Committee have always shown sympathy and understanding in the rehousing of people under Slum Clearance for which in return the people, themselves, have expressed the uttermost appreciation.

In accordance with the Five-Year Slum Clearance Programme reports were presented to Committee in respect of the following areas:—

- Clearance Area No. 6 — 113/121 Chester Road and 1 Hooton Lane,
Childer Thornton (Poole Ward—six houses).
- „ „ No. 7 — 166/178 Chester Road and 2/6 School Lane,
Childer Thornton (Poole Ward—ten houses).
- „ „ No. 8 — 1/5 School Lane, Childer Thornton
(Poole Ward—three houses).
- „ „ No. 9 — 1/6 Smithy Lane, Little Sutton
(Sutton Ward— six houses).

A Compulsory Purchase Order was made in each of the three Clearance Areas Nos. 6, 7 and 9 and a Clearance Order for No. 8. The first named Order only has been submitted to the Ministry for confirmation. There were no appeals by the Owners against the Council's decision in this instance, and a visit to the area has been paid by an Officer of the Ministry whose decision is now awaited.

The rehousing of displaced families in the Poole Ward from Clearance Areas in that Ward presents a difficult problem from a planning point of view. It is hoped, however, that too much time will not be lost before rehousing can take place, otherwise the declaration of unfit property is stultified.

Demolition of seven cottages, 486/490 and 496/502 Chester Road, Little Sutton, have been completed with the sites being developed by the Owners for business purposes.

Preliminary work was undertaken with a view to obtaining an Undertaking, following a housing application for priority on account of overcrowding from the tenant of a cottage situate at Great Sutton, and forming part of a terrace of four houses which have been provisionally included in the Five-Year Programme.

This was not proceeded with for domestic reasons although the Owners had intimated their agreement with the proposal not to use the premises for human habitation.

Several enquiries were received from Owner/Occupiers in respect of improvement grants and four applications were made. These were approved by the Committee and Council, the amount of the grants being £1,282. As already stated, few applications are received which is a pity having in mind the advantage that can accrue from modernisation of domestic property.

The sewerage scheme for part of the village of Ince, which it will be recalled is linked up with the building of dwellings for rehousing of persons in Monastery Row, made subject of a Compulsory Purchase Order, has not yet received approval from the Ministry. A revised scheme has been submitted following a visit paid by an Officer of the Ministry and it is earnestly hoped formal approval will not be long awaited.

The delay in carrying through the whole scheme is more than of a great disappointment to the people concerned, and certainly tries the patience of any optimist.

In connection with the sale of Corporation Houses to the sitting-tenants detailed inspections were made of fifteen dwellings and reports submitted showing the condition of the property at the time of sale. In a number of instances the repairs as shown were completed by the purchaser before the sale was completed.

The scheme brought into operation several years ago has continued whereby detailed inspections are made of property subject to an application for an advance from the Borough Council to acquire existing dwellings in order to ensure the houses are brought to a good state of repair.

It is considered to be a most satisfactory arrangement and no advance is made until all works are completed to the satisfaction of the Council. Nineteen houses were inspected during the year under review.

The number of Corporation Houses constructed during the year, as supplied by the Borough Engineer & Surveyor, was 326. This shows a slight increase over the previous year with a resultant improvement in the position as affecting rehousing. 117 dwellings were erected by private enterprise.

Cases of overcrowding, or application for housing priority in respect of other health reasons, are investigated and reported upon to the Housing (Estates) Sub-Committee from time to time as directed by that Committee.

In this connection thirty-eight cases were investigated and reported upon to the Committee and of this number, twenty-nine were offered Corporation accommodation.

The close co-operation afforded by the Housing Manager and his staff is greatly appreciated and reflects the team spirit which is all essential in dealing with the many difficulties of this human problem.

In connection with works of repair to houses, 300 informal notices, together with 36 Abatement Notices, were served upon Owners of domestic property within the provisions of the Public Health Act in relation to the existence of Statutory Nuisances. Of the Abatement Notices served, two related to two houses owned by one Owner forming part of a terrace in the Westminster Ward, and twenty-three comprising the whole of a terrace of property owned by one owner and situate in the Victoria Ward. These Notices were not complied with and both Owners expressed to the Council their financial inability to carry out the necessary repairs.

In the first instance a sub-committee was appointed and meetings held with the Owner, in the other case a number of meetings took place with the parties concerned and the Council's Officers in an endeavour to find a solution to the problem.

Legal proceedings were finally instituted and in both cases Orders were made upon the Owners. The Orders were not complied with and the Council, in exercise of default powers, carried out all necessary measures to abate the nuisances.

Specifications and schedule of repairs were prepared and tenders invited by public advertisement with the lowest tender being accepted in both instances.

Whilst this involved extra work on the department it proved a worthwhile project and worthy of the effort made.

The Owners on the one hand expressed appreciation in the manner their difficulties have been helped by the Council in the action they adopted in the matter and the tenants, on the other, have been given better living conditions for which they are equally appreciative and justly deserve.

It is the first occasion that such extensive works have been carried out under default powers by the Council and it is hoped others will follow in the future.

The remaining eleven Abatement Notices were complied with although it was necessary for the Town Clerk to issue, in one instance, a warning letter intimating legal proceedings would be instituted unless the Notice requiring abatement of the nuisance was completed without delay.

It must always be remembered that during the course of a year a great deal of housing repair work is done by informal action, for in the main, property Owners and Agents do endeavour to meet their responsibilities to carry out any necessary repairs whenever it is possible to do so.

Arising from several complaints received regarding insufficient water supply to a terrace of twenty-five houses full investigation and tests were carried out and it was ascertained that the inadequate supply was due to corrosion of the pipes.

Reports were given to Health Committee when it was decided that the matter should be left in abeyance in view of the fact that it is the Council's intention to acquire several of the properties for improvement in accordance with the Westminster Ward Scheme, and in the light of temporary measures which had been taken to improve the supply.

The Rent Act, 1957, which came into operation during the year and superseded the Housing Repairs & Rent Act, 1954, in relation to rent increases and Certificates of Disrepair, has placed further duties upon the staff.

It has been found that a great deal of time must be spent with each application in order at least to ensure the correct interpretation of the defects enumerated on the tenant's form of notice to the Landlord of defects of repair, that the defects exist, have been properly included in the Notice, and are reasonable, having regard to the age, character, and locality of the dwelling.

The number of applications received for a Certificate of Disrepair was 32. In respect of these, twenty-nine Undertakings were received from the Landlord and twenty-seven were accepted. Five Certificates of Disrepair were issued.

The number of dustbins supplied to property during the year was 945 of which 101 were supplied subject to an annual charge being made upon the property. This action is only taken as a result of the non-compliance with an informal notice served upon the Owner, requiring him to provide a dustbin within fourteen days. The total number of bins so supplied since the scheme was inaugurated in June, 1950 to the 31st December, 1957, is 665. This is considered to be most satisfactory.

Annual Charges for dustbins were increased at the 1st April, 1957, from 5/-d. to 7/6d. in consequence of a new Order made by Parliament.

The type of dustbin in use in the Borough is the B.S.S. 2½ cu. ft.

Apart from letters of complaint received requesting an inspection of premises, 779 verbal complaints were made at the office. This shows a further reduction over the previous year. They do not, however, include the many enquiries made to the department for advice, etc., in respect of such items as arise within the provisions of the Rent Act, or other matters of a general character affecting our work.

Moveable Dwellings — In compliance with the provisions of Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, seven applications were received for licences to erect or station and use moveable dwellings for human habitation. Licences were granted in each instance and made subject to certain sanitary conditions being observed as set out in each licence. The total number of caravans in the district at the end of the year, and used for living purposes, was seven licensed and three unlicensed. It is being urged that action be taken in accordance with planning powers for the three unlicensed caravans to be removed from out of the Borough.

Great care is exercised to ensure that control over this particular problem is maintained as far as it is possible to do so, otherwise it would soon become out of hand.

In the main the licences granted are in respect of applicants who are on contract work in the Borough and require accommodation for a temporary or limited period.

Food

The survey of all food establishments within the Borough, in the light of new requirements contained in the Food Hygiene Regulations, has unfortunately not been completed owing to the fact of staff difficulties experienced during the year and pressure of work in other directions.

It is a very difficult problem to have to decide what branch of work shall have priority over another when faced with the fact of being quite unable to keep pace with increasing duties and responsibilities. There are matters which because of their very nature must be dealt with immediately so that to some extent it is really inevitable that routine work, however important, is the first to suffer.

The importance of our work in connection with food is fully appreciated for it is a firm belief that systematic inspection of all food premises is essential if a satisfactory standard of food hygiene is to be maintained. It can well be that the incidence, or otherwise, of food poisoning outbreaks depend in no small measure to the amount of effort put into this branch of work, for after all, education of food handlers in the basic principles of food hygiene, the necessity for a decent standard of food handling, play a prominent part and lack of it can have serious consequences.

It is considered essential that the ground-work covered since the inception of the model byelaws must not be thrown away or the good-will and co-operation built up during the period allowed to lapse. Every endeavour therefore will have to be made to make good any leeway during the immediate future.

In respect of registration four applications were received during the year under review. They related to the sale of ice-cream, each were considered satisfactory and licences issued. There are now 121 premises in the district registered within the provisions of the Act.

Some routine work has of course been carried out to various types of premises and in this connection twelve informal notices have been served requesting attention to various items.

An inspection carried out of a certain food shop revealed conditions that were not at all satisfactory and several infringements were observed.

The matter was reported upon to Committee who decided, after full consideration of all the circumstances of the case, that the Town Clerk inform such owner of the Council's concern upon the adverse report they had received regarding the condition of the premises.

The owner immediately put into effect, at some considerable expense, all the recommendations made by the department with the consequence that the premises quickly assumed a new and smart appearance.

One is at a loss to understand why conditions should be allowed to deteriorate to such an extent that when the local authority eventually come upon the scene nothing is spared to rectify the position as speedily as possible.

It can safely be stated that with one or two exceptions all food premises have refrigeration facilities in one form or another, and some really excellent schemes are in being. This is a point which the department has continually stressed over the year, for temperature control plays a very active part in the preservation of many foodstuffs, quite apart from the important aspect of the lessening of the risk associated with the rapid growth of bacteria in certain prepared foods.

It is of interest to report a complaint received during the year regarding a fluorescent glow from food which a complainant had purchased and desired to know whether or not, because of its fluorescence, it was radio-active and fit or otherwise for human consumption.

The matter was investigated by a member of the staff, who to reassure the complainant caused the food to be examined for the presence of radio-activity with negative results.

Whilst it was never considered that the food could possibly have been radio-active it does lend force to the fact that when such a complaint of this nature is received it certainly shows the necessity for information to be made available to public health officers as to contamination of food by radio-active substances and their fitness or otherwise for human consumption, and so maintain the confidence of the public, who in such matters would require some assurance from public health authorities as happened in the instance now quoted.

Regular inspection of food stalls on the Council's six-day open market have been maintained and internal decoration of the stalls carried out.

Food Hygiene. — The Clean Food Joint Consultative Committee remains in being and one meeting has been held.

All aspects of the food trades are represented with Mr. F. Burrows, Master Butcher, Station Road, Ellesmere Port, remaining Chairman for a further year.

Several members of the Committee expressed a wish that at least two meetings should be held each year otherwise they felt there was a danger the Committee might lapse which, in their opinion, would be a loss and one of regret. This had been put forward by reason of the fact that for various reasons over twelve months had passed since holding a meeting.

The suggestion has now been agreed upon by the Committee at a meeting held in April, 1958, that one meeting shall be held early in the year and the other towards the close of the year, with any other meeting to be held in the meantime if found necessary.

The co-operation received from the Committee has previously been reported upon who have once again demonstrated their earnest desire to maintain the goodwill and confidence of all concerned in an endeavour to maintain a good standard of food handling.

Three series of lectures were held during the winter months to food handlers and sixty seven personnel completed the course and received their food hygiene certificates. This included new entrants into the service and others who for some reason or other had not previously completed the full course of four lectures.

This educational work is looked upon as a permanent feature of the department. It is a policy which has been carried out for the past seven years and for some little time now it has been observed that there is a growing awareness among food handlers of the part they have to play in the furtherance of the aims of food hygiene.

Licensed Premises. — No progress has been made towards having a survey carried out of this type of food business and no routine inspections were made, other than two visits in connection with the completion of works at one licensed house, in respect of which an informal notice had been served the previous year.

Restaurants, Canteens, etc. — A certain amount of routine work has been undertaken together with the supervision of works of improvement being carried out at several industrial canteens. In this connection fifty-eight inspections were made, and it is again pleasing to report the close co-operation that is afforded by the Managements.

The recommendation made that a sample meal be retained for twenty-four hours at all canteens, so that in any emergency it will be available for bacteriological examination is in the main being fully implemented.

This was found to be of great value in an incident occurring at premises where several cases of food poisoning were notified.

A new snack-bar was opened during the year in the Westminster Ward and extensions made to an existing one in Central Ward. In both instances full co-operation was given and recommendations made were adopted.

In connection with bacteriological examinations of washing-up and rinse waters, thirty-five samples were obtained, four being classified as unsatisfactory. These were subject to "follow-up" work and conditions rectified.

In addition twenty-five crockery swabs were obtained in respect of which a satisfactory report was obtained.

The operation of the double-sink method of washing crockery, etc., is still the policy which has been strongly advocated by the department for several years. This consists of the preliminary washing of utensils in one sink at 110°F. or thereabouts, followed by immersion in another at a temperature of between 170°F. and 180°F.

Two of the unsatisfactory reports obtained in connection with washing-up waters were from premises where the double-sink method was not in being.

The joint inspection of all school canteens with representatives of the County Council has not yet been carried out, although it is understood the necessary arrangements for this to be done are likely to be made within the near future.

Food Inspection. — Sixty-eight special visits were paid to food premises at the request of owners, to inspect foodstuffs, and the following goods were rejected, being unfit for human consumption:—

Meat	161 tins	Fish	3 tins
Soup	1 tin	Fruit	22 tins
Tomatoes	18 tins	Carrots	1 tin
Peas	9 tins	Beans	9 tins
Milk	11 tins	Orange Juice	6 tins
Cooked Ham	2488 lb.	Raw Ham	16 lb. 10 ozs.
Cheshire Cheese	324 lb.	Bacon Pieces	224 lb.
Fish Cakes	2 doz.	Wet Fish	56 lb.

Approximately half a ton of cooked ham, forming the main part of a consignment received at a local warehouse was rejected in December of the year.

This ham was a product of Australia and was packed in 9 - 10 lb. and 10 - 12 lb. tins. Several of the tins were found to be blown or in a springy condition, whilst others, appearing quite satisfactory externally, were found when opened to be in varying stages of decomposition particularly in the centre of the pack. None of the tins showed evidence of having received damage in transit.

Health Committee expressed its concern in the matter and acting on instructions a communication was addressed to the Food Hygiene Advisory Officer, Ministry of Health, giving all details.

In consequence of this and further correspondence, the Council were informed by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food that enquiries had been made of the Australian Government who were investigating the matter with the particular firm in question and that they had already been advised of other condemnations.

The assistance given from the two Ministries was appreciated.

Meat Inspection. — The private slaughterhouse at Ledsham in the Sutton Ward has continued in operation, and a great amount of time has to be spent by the inspectorial staff to ensure 100% inspection is carried out.

Several butchers from outside still use the premises in addition to other local interests, and one or two local butchers still slaughter animals at a private slaughterhouse in an adjacent rural area.

There is much to be said in favour of a municipal abattoir where full control can be exercised by the Local Authority.

The views expressed in last year's report in regard to the provision of a Municipal Abattoir are, of course, unchanged.

The following table relates to meat inspection carried out at the slaughterhouse during the year under review.

	Cattle Excluding Cows.	Cows.	Calves.	Sheep and Lambs.	Pigs.
Number killed	1080	24	429	7047	1282
Number Inspected	1080	24	429	7047	1282
<i>All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	Nil	Nil	4	1	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	92	2	4	109	79
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis and Cysticerci	8.52	8.33	1.87	1.56	6.71
<i>Tuberculosis only:</i>					
Whole Carcases condemned ...	1	Nil	1	Nil	3
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	69	Nil	Nil	Nil	52
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	6.48	—	0.23	—	4.29
<i>Cysticercosis:</i>					
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	2	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Generalised and total condemned	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil

The total weight rejected was 1 ton, 18 cwts., 1 qr., 16 lb.

Ice Cream. — Forty-six samples of ice-cream and six lolly-ices were taken for examination from all dealers and manufacturers during the year. Sampling is carried out on a rota basis, whereby each trader is visited at irregular intervals.

Of the forty-six samples obtained and examined in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, forty were placed in Grade I; three in Grade II and three in Grade III.

Five of the lolly-ice samples were satisfactory.

Action was taken in respect of the samples considered to be unsatisfactory.

There are two establishments in the Borough who manufacture by the “hot mix” method. Conditions at both premises are satisfactory.

Close attention has been paid to itinerant ice-cream dealers to see that their vehicles are kept to standard in accordance with the code of practice in operation for this type of trade.

Milk Supply. — There are three registered dairies and forty-three distributors in the Borough. In addition, two distributors bring milk into the area from outside districts, as well as four registered wholesalers. These figures show an increase of one distributor over the previous year.

Authorities, other than Food and Drug Authorities, are responsible for the issue of all licences other than a pasteurising establishment, but since the Borough became part of a specified area from the 21st March, 1955, any milk sold in contravention of the Order, the Food and Drug Authority is the enforcing body. This is felt to be quite unnecessary, for no useful purpose seems to be served by exempting other Authorities from assuming this responsibility, particularly when it is borne in mind they have in being all necessary records.

The work of milk sampling is carried out on a rota basis which has been in operation for several years.

Thirty-two samples were obtained and sent to the bacteriologist for examination, each being examined in accordance with the designation applicable to the sample.

All the thirty-two samples examined in accordance with the designation were satisfactory with the exception of two which failed the Methylene Blue test.

Ninety-seven Dealers' Licences were issued by the Borough Council under the Milk (Special Designations) Regulations. This is an increase of eight over the previous year, but no Supplementary Licenses were issued.

All milk supplies obtained by retailers are already bottled or in containers in accordance with the regulations for retail to canteens ,etc.

Atmospheric Pollution

The activities of a Local Authority in the field of atmospheric pollution have been considerably extended with the coming into operation of the Clean Air Act notwithstanding any extensions being made to registerable processes within the Alkali Etc., Works Regulation Act, which will have a tendency to remove local control of smoke and dust emission from certain premises.

This it must be stated is to be regretted for there is a distinct possibility of bringing into being a dual control with two separate and distinct officers. Smoke nuisance arising from a steam raising plant will be the responsibility of the Local Authority whilst such a nuisance from a process at the same factory, which is a registered process, will be the responsibility of the Alkali Inspector and should the steam raising plant use process gas then it could be said to be part of the registered process.

The technical difficulties are not readily or easily to be solved so that there must exist, if progress is to be maintained, a willing spirit of co-operation on all sides.

Industry, up to the present time, has expressed willingness to co-operate fully and this attitude is to be appreciated, for as was mentioned at a recent conference the problem is of a tripartite nature — industry, the Alkali Works Inspector and the Public Health Inspector.

Provision is made in the Clean Air Act to establish smoke control areas, either affecting domestic property, etc., and/or industry, although in a memorandum issued to Local Authorities the emphasis has been placed upon dealing with pollution arising from domestic property, offices, public buildings and other non-industrial buildings. This, it was explained, would direct supplies of smokeless fuel where it was most needed leaving industry generally who were more able to take steps to prevent smoke pollution and in any event will have to comply with new requirements to make other arrangements as found necessary.

For several years it has been mentioned in these reports of the need to take steps to combat domestic pollution. With this steps were taken as laid down in the Ministry's Memorandum when finally a report was presented to Committee with a proposal to establish a smoke control area on a part of the North Whit Housing Estate in the Grange Ward.

The Health Committee, after very careful consideration of the proposal, recommended the Borough Council to the agreement in principle of a smoke control area and this was duly confirmed.

of atmos-
ne coming
ny exten-
kali Etc.,
o remove
premises.

e is a dis-
with two
g from a
Authority
e factory,
ty of the
e process
ocess.

ily to be
ntained, a

villingness
ed, for as
tripartite
he Public

sh smoke
nd/or in-
authorities
on arising
her non-
supplies
industry
t smoke
require-

reports
With this

Insert the following words after the word "this" at the end of the second line, "in view, and in the light of new powers now available, preliminary"

ation of
reement
nfirmed.

The necessary information was forwarded to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government who has intimated to the Council agreement in principle to their proposal.

A detailed survey of the area has now been completed and will be presented to Committee within the immediate future when it is earnestly hoped the necessary steps will be taken to the making of a Smoke Control Order.

Following agreement in principle to the area, a meeting was convened in the Council Chamber of representatives of all interested bodies to discuss the proposal from every aspect at which the Worshipful the Mayor presided. A full discussion took place and it was finally agreed to hold an exhibition, if at all possible, in the Civic Hall.

This was approved by the Borough Council and the exhibition was staged for four days commencing on the afternoon of the 28th January, 1958.

The exhibition, which was considered to have been most successful, was officially opened by the Worshipful the Mayor, Councillor J. Groome, J.P., C.C., whose interest and support, not only on this occasion but throughout the publicity campaign, was a great encouragement as was also that given by the Chairman, Health Committee.

Some two hundred and fifty people were present at the official opening and it was indeed a pleasure and privilege to have as guest speaker the Director of the National Society for Clean Air, Arnold Marsh, Esq., O.B.E., who gave an excellent address. The Regional Director, Ministry of Power, was also present as were several members of the North West Clean Air Committee.

A programme of events to cover the exhibition was held, including morning sessions for school leavers from the Modern Secondary Schools, being kindly arranged through the good offices of the Divisional Education Officer, Mr. S. MacArthur. The total attendance was 1,600 including 400 school leavers.

Following the static exhibition a mobile exhibition toured the proposed smoke control area for one week showing practical demonstrations in the use of various smokeless fuels. This again was followed by a demonstration gas house in the area for two weeks showing the use of gas and gas-coke as smokeless fuel. Some 445 people visited the house and were so impressed with the demonstration that a number immediately commenced to use coke in their own homes. The support given by the nationalised body was greatly appreciated as is also their continued co-operation.

The amount of publicity given over these periods, together with the coverage in the local press, will it is felt, prove to have been of inestimable value in our clean air campaign and the inauguration of a smoke control area.

Meetings have also been held with representatives of the various Women's Organisations in the Borough, who not only gave valued support to the exhibition but expressed their support in the clean air policy now put forward.

Advantage has also been taken to give talks to meetings in respect of the aims and reasons for smoke control, and finally, apart from the first meeting when their representatives were present, a meeting was arranged directly with the local coal merchants, to explain the policy.

Arising from a report submitted to Health Committee it was recommended to Council, and such recommendation was finally confirmed, that provisions be made in the building byelaws, on the lines of the Model byelaw, requiring the provision in new buildings, of such arrangements for heating or cooking as are calculated to prevent so far as practicable, the emission of smoke.

The byelaw came into operation on the 1st September, 1957.

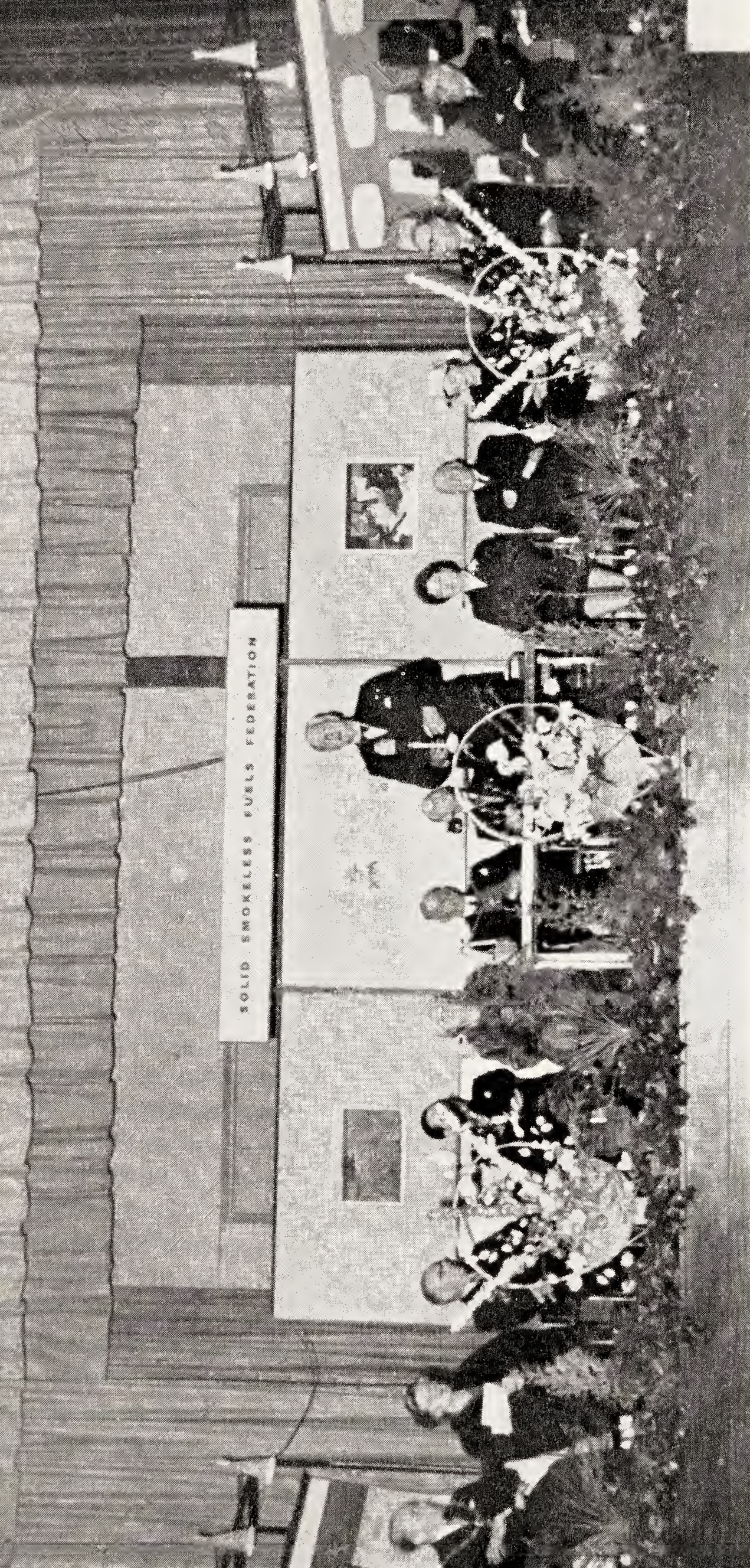
On the industrial front there were no applications received in respect of Prior Approval for the installation of a furnace, and the two cases approved the previous year are now in operation, and working satisfactorily.

Research and developments continue to be made by the Company engaged in the manufacture of carbon black, and the assistance and co-operation afforded to the department is much appreciated.

The Borough Council continued the arrangements made with the Liverpool Observatory and Tidal Institute, whereby data is received daily, in respect of wind directions, etc. This information has been found to be most useful.

Odour emission has, on several occasions, given rise to complaint, but the position has improved very much over recent years. In one or two instances, wind direction has shown that a nuisance of odour also emanates from outside the Borough.

No lectures were held in Smoke Abatement and Fuel Efficiency, for reasons as previously mentioned. It is hoped, however, to hold a series during the winter months of 1958, if only as a refresher course.



The Director of the National Society for Clean Air, A. Marsh, Esq.,
speaking at the official opening of the Clean Air Exhibition

Attention has again been directed to the problem of pollution, arising from shunting operations, and those concerned have expressed their willingness to co-operate. The position has improved of late, and trust it will continue to do so.

The Manchester Port Health Authority are endeavouring, with the concurrence of the Borough Council, to cause notices to be exhibited, when the smoke control area has been declared, drawing attention of shipping to the need to prevent smoke emission when approaching, or within the Borough boundary. This should prove to be of great value and is greatly appreciated.

The daily smoke filter was acquired, and put into operation in October, of the year under review, with the Sulphur Dioxide apparatus in January, 1958.

It has been agreed by the Committee, to co-operate with the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, and in the next report it is hoped to be able to illustrate the degree of pollution, arising from the emission of smoke and sulphur dioxide.

Two petri-dish surveys have been carried out showing the amount of dry solid matter deposited throughout the area. To give any degree of accuracy, however, such work will have to be carried out over quite a period. The results obtained in the two surveys are of some significance.

General

Noise. — No further investigations have been made following the completion of works carried out to eliminate the nuisance by the Company concerned, who have also given an assurance to keep the matter constantly under review.

It will be recalled, consultants were engaged by this Company, to give advice in the matter.

Drains and Sewerage.—There are two sewage disposal works in the Borough. The Works at Little Stanney were erected during the year 1933, and designed for a population of 20,000, whilst the disposal works at Sunnyside, Pontoon, known as the Town Works, are designed for a population of 7,000. An area is drained under the Manchester Ship Canal, to the River Mersey, without treatment.

The proposal for dealing with the drainage of a part of the Village of Ince, in the Stanlow Ward is, as mentioned earlier in this report, still under consideration, together with the building of new dwellings, to replace those that have been declared unfit for human habitation, and confirmed by the Ministry.

Complaint has again been received regarding pollution, being mainly intermittent in character, of a watercourse in the Ledsham Area of Sutton Ward and following receipt of correspondence, sent direct to the Ministry by a complaint, an Inspector of the Ministry of Housing & Local Government paid a visit to the district in January, 1958, to discuss the problem and make an inspection of the site.

The pollution complained of, emanates from outside the Borough Boundary, and whilst it is, as stated, only intermittent, being observed generally in an evening, at a weekend, consideration will have to be given to the taking of further action, unless the nuisance is satisfactorily abated.

It is hoped, however, that commonsense will prevail, by those concerned, to take all steps as are necessary, to prevent this pollution, which is of great annoyance and discomfort to the people in the locality.

Complaints of choked house drains are referred in the first instance to the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, when arrangements are made for the drain to be plunged or rodded free of charge, if proper access is available. Should this not prove successful in clearing the drain, then notice is served upon the owner concerned.

Forty-seven informal notices were served during the year, in respect of defective drainage, etc., all were complied with.

No flooding occurred of any houses during the year, in the Hooton Cross Road area of Poole Ward.

The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has had measures undertaken, with a view to preventing any flooding which is likely to occur at this point.

Rivers and Streams. — The small River Gowy is within the Borough boundary, and is bordered by oil works along its entire length in this borough. It is tide-locked where it is syphoned, below the Manchester Ship Canal, to discharge into the River Mersey.

A great deal of pollution is evident, due to trade effluents from neighbouring industries.

Closet Accommodation. — The greater part of the district is provided with clean water closets, but on the outskirts of the town, where sewers are not available, some pails, privies, cesspools, and septic tanks are in use.

A number of inspections have been made, of small sewage disposal plants, with maintenance works carried out, after service of informal notices.

A service is in operation, under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department, for the regular cleansing of pail closets in the Village of Ince.

Refuse Collection and Disposal. — This service is carried out by direct labour, under the control of the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department. Modern mechanised vehicles are in use, and disposal is by tipping.

All premises in the district utilise the standard dustbin, and the Department enforces renewals, etc., together with the provision of dustbins to new houses and other premises.

Close co-operation has been maintained with the Department in the disposal of refuse at the Pooltown Road tip, with tipping carried out in an efficient manner, without complaint.

Conditions prevailing at one industrial refuse tip, have, on occasions, again caused concern, particularly in respect of odour emission.

On one occasion it was found necessary to report the matter to Committee, and an Abatement Notice was served, to abate the nuisance. Remedial measures were taken immediately by the Occupiers, and no further nuisance has since taken place.

Two other sites are still in use, and conditions generally have not very much improved over the previous year.

Whilst it is appreciated that industry has waste materials to dispose of, it is considered an obligation, that it shall be carried out efficiently and without nuisance.

Swimming Pool. — The Rivacre Swimming Pool is owned by the Corporation, and has a swimming area of 1,567 square yards.

The water passes through a continuous bath purification plant, which embodies two horizontal air-scoured pressure filters, with a circulation pump capable of circulating the total contents of the Pool, in a period of eight hours.

Several samples of water were taken by the Department, during the height of the season, and these proved to be satisfactory. It is now possible for break-point chlorination to be maintained.

Difficulties have been experienced during peak periods, regarding the litter problem, which seems to be a very difficult one. The Borough Engineer and Surveyor has in being a special arrangement for its collection during these periods.

Schools. — At the close of the year there were five County Council Secondary Modern Schools, thirteen Primary Schools, and four Denominational Schools in the Borough.

Three schools also use rooms at other buildings, to accommodate overspill.

It is pleasing to report that the trough-type conveniences which existed at one school, have now been replaced with wash-down pedestal water closets. This means that all schools in the Borough are provided with individual water closet accommodation.

It was not found possible, during the year, for inspections to be made of all the schools.

The Head Teachers are immediately notified of the occurrence of cases of infectious diseases, in order to secure the exclusion of the contacts, for the necessary period.

During the vacation, and at other times when found necessary, the schools are thoroughly disinfected.

Factories. — The tables on the following pages refer to the inspections carried out in respect of factory premises. The reason why so few inspections have been made, is simply due to the reasons as mentioned in previous reports.

No applications were received for approval of a water supply to industrial premises during the year.

Samples of water were taken at periodical intervals, for routine examination, at three undertakings where approval has previously been granted, and with one exception all were satisfactory.

In this particular instance, consultants were engaged by the Company concerned, when it was decided to reline the well. Further samples were obtained before the supply was again used.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1943

1. Inspections.

Premises (1)	M/c. Line (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c. Line (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written Notices (5)	Occupiers Prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	10	—	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	2	108	5	—	—	2
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (ex- cluding outworkers' premises)	3	3	—	—	—	3
TOTAL ..		121	5	—	—	

2. Cases in which defects were found.

Particulars (1)	M/c. Line (2)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7)	M/c. Line (8)
		Found (3)	Remedied (4)	Referred to H.M. Inspector (5)	by H.M. Inspector (6)		
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	1	1	—	—	—	4
Overcrowding (S.2)	5	—	—	—	—	—	5
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	—	—	—	—	—	6
Inadequate ventilation (S.4) ..	7	1	—	—	—	—	7
Ineffective drainage of Floors (S.6)	8	—	—	—	—	—	8
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) (a) Insufficient	9	—	—	—	—	—	9
(b) Unsuitable or defective	10	—	—	—	—	—	10
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	—	—	—	—	—	11
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Outwork)	12	—	—	—	—	—	12
TOTAL ..		2	1	—	—	—	

Pest Control

Rodent Control. — Three rodent operatives are employed, with a charge-hand, whose part-time services are chargeable to rodent control. This staff has worked very efficiently during the year, and credit is due to them for the services rendered.

Industry particularly, have continued to co-operate closely with the Department, resulting in the work being carried out without friction, which is much appreciated.

It has always been recognised by both parties, of the responsibility to ensure premises are kept free from vermin, so that a spirit of goodwill has been built up during the years.

Annual and clearance contracts have been maintained at the same level as the previous year, so that the staff have been fully occupied with inspection work, and the taking of remedial measures.

The free service has continued, in respect of rat infestations at domestic property, and advice is given whenever requested, in any instance affecting mice.

No meetings during the period under review, were convened by the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, of Workable Area Committee No. 22, of which this Authority is a constituent member.

12,575 inspections were carried out by the rodent operatives, with 1,102 poisoning campaigns undertaken. The total amount of "poison take", i.e. poison and bait combined, on all campaigns, was Zinc Phosphide 20 lb. 5 ozs., Red Squill 11 lb. 5 oz., Arsenic 24 lb. 9 ozs., Mafantu 2 lb. 2½ ozs., Warfarin 0.1 33 lb. 8 ozs., Warfarin 0.5 35 lb. 6½ ozs.

The formula prepared by the Ministry, for the calculation of the estimated kill of the common rat when Zinc Phosphide and Arsenic are used, shows that in respect of these two poisons, in campaigns, a total kill of 1,795 is arrived at for the year.

A test baiting of 10% of sewer manholes in the entire Borough were baited, in accordance with the requirements of the Ministry, and "no takes" recorded.

This was considered satisfactory by the Divisional Rodent Officer, and no further work in this connection was undertaken during the financial year 1957/58.

The problem of rat-proofing the sewers, having storm water overflows, still remains to be carried out.

Insect Pests. — Several treatments have been carried out at industrial and other premises, in relation to infestations by ants, cockroaches, etc., such work being undertaken on a Clearance or Annual Contract basis. This has proved to be quite satisfactory.

A number of complaints of ant infestation, affecting domestic property have been received, and any work of disinfection, carried out in this connection, by the Department, is not rechargeable.

In respect of infestation with bed-bugs, the number of houses dealt with during the year were as follows:—

(a) Corporation houses	Nil
(b) Other houses	3
(c) Number disinfested	3
(d) Total visits	10

These figures are the lowest that have ever been recorded in an Annual Report.

Infested houses were treated with liquid and powder forms of D.D.T., with satisfactory results. It is not generally considered now necessary to have woodwork removed in the bedrooms, to facilitate disinfection, due to the residual effect of D.D.T.

Spraying with a suitable insecticide, has been carried out adjacent to property on a new private housing estate, close to the Borough boundary, in the Whitby Ward.

The cleansing of watercourses in the vicinity has been completed, together with the piping of several lengths.

It is considered that very little else can be done, having in mind that the property is in such close proximity to a wooded area.

Pet Animals Act. — There are two premises in the Borough, licensed in accordance with the provisions of this Act, both in respect of shops, and are satisfactory.

Shops Act, 1950. — The Borough Council is the Local Authority, for the purpose of the administration of the whole of the provisions of this Act, and 165 inspections were made during the course of the year under review.

Difficulty is still experienced in connection with Sunday Trading, and complaints made by the Trade in respect of one or two traders having a mixed business, and opening on a Sunday, have been investigated. Several warnings have been issued.

The only effective remedy, to prevent this unfair trading, and that is what it really amounts to, is that legislation should provide for a serious curtailment of the list of exempted goods that can be normally sold outside those hours, when the shop is closed for other transactions.

Annual Report on Health Services of South-West Cheshire Division for the Year 1957

Mr Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report on the work of the Divisional Health Committee, for the year 1957.

The Division includes the Borough of Ellesmere Port, and the Rural Districts of Chester and Tarvin. The total population at 1st April, according to the Registrar General's latest figures (mid 1956) is 79,240, and the area is 115,414 acres, which is the equivalent of 0.68 persons per acre. The number of inhabited houses is approximately 22,997, and the combined rateable value for 1957 is £1,138,317.

The chief pre-occupation during the year has again been Poliomyelitis Vaccination. This measure, which had a tremendous emotional effect on the Press and public alike, also had an overwhelming impact on the resources of Health Authorities throughout the Country. This Division was no exception. Combined with a variety of other Immunisations and Vaccinations, sympathy must be felt for these hapless infants (and their parents) who are thus subject to a whole barrage of injections in the early tender months of their young lives. And let us spare a thought for the overworked staff, especially the clerical staff, who are called upon to administer the scheme in all its meticulous details.

Our clerical staff has again suffered casualties through sickness and resignation, which we have tried to counteract, not always successfully I fear, by the engagement of occasional temporary clerks.

In other directions, Ambulance, Domestic Help and Welfare Foods Services, have continued at their normal pace.

Measles and Whooping cough were again prominent amongst the Infectious Diseases notified; in fact, there was quite an epidemic of Measles during the first half of the year.

The expected epidemic of Asian Influenza arrived in September, 1957, and seriously affected the school population and to a less extent, the young adult population. Though generally mild, it had a devastating effect on some schools for a few weeks; in some cases more than half the pupils and teachers were affected and were absent. Fortunately the very young and the aged were not so susceptible to the infection, and the numbers affected in these groups were comparatively small.

We would again express our indebtedness to the Voluntary Helpers, at Clinics and Welfare Food Centres throughout the Division, for their invaluable services on our behalf.

I am,

Your obedient servant,

WALTER J. BIRCHALL, M.B., M.R.C.S., D.P.H.

CHESHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

South-West Cheshire Divisional Health Committee

REPORT FOR YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1957

N.H.S. Act, 1946 (Section 22)

—Care of Mothers and Young Children

A—MOTHERS' CLINICS					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Ante-Natal	...	...	...	...	329	2393
Post-Natal	...	...	...	...	120	133

Dental :

Pre-Natal	...	...	...	...	—	—
Nursing Mothers	...	...	...	...	5	8
Dentures Supplied	...	...	...	...	—	—

B—YOUNG CHILDREN'S CLINICS					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
----------------------------	--	--	--	--	------------	--------------------

(1) Infant Welfare—

To 1 year	...	...	...	...	853	9513
1—2 years	...	...	...	...	—	1773
2—5 years	...	...	...	...	—	1667

(2) Specialist—

Opthalmic	...	...	...	...	21	68
Dental Treatment (under 5)	...	...	...	...	104	117
E.N.T. (Under 5)	...	...	...	...	19	20

Daily Average No.

(3) Day Nurseries					Attendng.	Total Attendances.
Aged 0—2 years	...	...	...	...	12	3017
2—5 years	...	...	...	...	32	7749

Details of figures (where they relate to more than one Clinic) are given hereunder:—

EYE CLINICS					New Cases.	Total Attendances.
Hoole	...	...	...	...	5	10
Ellesmere Port	...	...	...	...	16	58
Totals	...	...	...	...	21	68

Number of Children under five for whom spectacles were prescribed 10

Number of cases recommended for hospital treatment ... 3

WEFARE CENTRES			New Cases.	Total Attendances.		
			0—1	0—1	1—2	2—5
Barrow	...	...	8	140	125	78
*Christleton	...	...	18	29	3	15
Ellesmere Port	...	...	281	3312	306	203
Farndon	...	...	16	187	49	113
Huntington	...	...	26	269	82	76
Ince	...	...	18	226	24	41
Kelsall	...	...	42	462	122	185
Little Sutton	...	...	150	1664	351	246
Malpas	...	...	25	197	40	116
Overpool	...	...	114	1020	58	3
Saughall	...	...	34	297	121	146
Tarvin	...	...	24	365	148	178
Tattenhall	...	...	24	322	51	53
Upton	...	...	73	1123	293	214
			<hr/> 853	<hr/> 9613	<hr/> 1773	<hr/> 1667

* Commenced 21st November, 1957.

SPECIAL COMMENTS

WELFARE CENTRES AND DAY NURSERY

Welfare Centres

The Ellesmere Port Welfare Centre was decorated externally, and part internally at a cost of £208 18s. 0d., and curtains were purchased at a cost of £18 10s. 0d.

The Welfare Centre at Little Sutton was partly decorated internally, at a cost of £64.

A new Welfare Clinic was established at the Women's Institute, Christleton, in November, clinics are being held twice per month, on the first and third Thursday afternoon of each month.

The Committee approved the loan of the site for the new Boughton Welfare Centre, to the Boughton Parish Council, for use as a Children's Playground.

Welfare Foods (Ministry)

The distribution of Welfare Foods continued satisfactorily, largely owing to the splendid co-operation of the voluntary persons and members of the W.V.S., who have been most helpful.

A new distribution point was opened in November, at Christleton. The Distribution Point at the Dale, Chester, closed at the end of November.

The following is a summary of the number of articles issued during the year:—

NDM: 26,459, CLO: 5,563, A/D Tablets: 2,287, OJ. 36,732.

The above figures show a marked decrease in the issues of National Dried Milk, 31,808 tins were issued last year. It is thought that the decrease is largely owing to the increase in price.

Day Nursery, Ellesmere Port

Attendances during the March quarter were lower than for the remainder of the year, average attendances ranging from 35 to 43 children per day. The absences were mainly owing to coughs, colds and other respiratory infections. During the June quarter the attendances improved, averaging between 40 and 51 children per day, and during the September quarter, the average attendance was 50. The last quarter of the year attendances shewed the customary decline, falling to 42 during the month of December, again absences were owing to coughs, colds, etc.

Apart from the Influenza epidemic of September and October, when 23 children and 7 of the staff were affected, the general health of the children and staff has been quite good.

At the close of the year there were 63 children on the register, of whom 23 were priority cases. In addition there was a waiting list of 109.

The Matron and the Staff organised a Sale of Work in October at the Day Nursery, the proceeds of which helped to provide additional toys, and enabled the Matron to hold a successful Christmas Party for the children. The Christmas Party was held in December, and the Chairman of the Committee, Mr. W. H. Backhouse, kindly undertook the duties of Father Christmas and gave each child a present.

There have been a few staff changes during the year, Mrs. S. C. Tilley, the Deputy Matron resigned in August, and Mrs. H. J. Bryson was appointed in her place. One Nursery Student resigned during the year, and was accordingly replaced by a new appointment.

The Nursery was closed for the Annual Holiday from the 29th July to the 10th August.

The Nursery was internally decorated (part only) at a cost of £97 10s. 0d.

The Committee approved the annual replacements of Linen and Soft Furnishings, Overalls, Hardware and Crockery, Canvas seats and backs for Children's chairs, and the fitting with Berlam of 18 Children's Dining tables, and repairs to 24 Rest beds. The last two items were carried out by Wrenbury Hall Industries.

Costs.

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Day Nursery for the year ended 31st March, 1956, was received from the County Treasurer, and the daily cost per child during the year was as follows:—

1955/56: 12/9d. 1956/57: 13/0 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

Average cost throughout the County was:—

1955/56: 11/11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. 1956/57: 12/7 $\frac{3}{4}$ d.

MIDWIVES

Number of Births (adjusted for inward and outward transfers) 1,484 (including 27 stillbirths)

MIDWIFERY AND HOME NURSING

Transport

Two new cars were received during the year, one an Austin A35 for the Tarvin District Nurse, the other a Ford Popular for the Kelsall District Nurse. The old cars were sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for £162 19s. 6d. and £174 5s. 0d. respectively.

A reconditioned engine was fitted to the Tattenhall District Nurse's car, and repairs were carried out to the Tarvin Assistant District Nurse's car at a cost of £28 10s. 0d. Apart from these, no other major repairs were carried out to the cars of the District Nurses/Midwives.

CONVALESCENCE

The sum of £155 0s. 0d. was allocated for the year ending 31st March, 1958, for Convalescent treatment.

Two cases were each sent for two weeks convalescence at the Lear Home of Recovery, West Kirby, at a cost to the County Council of £14.

VACCINATION AND IMMUNISATION

Total fees paid for the period 1.1.57—31.12.57 amounted to £600 17s. 6d.

Statistics are as stated below:—

A — Vaccination

1. PRIMARY VACCINATION:

						Males.	Females.	Total
(a) Pre-School Children	...	...	...			333	337	670
(b) School Children	...	...	...			3	16	19
(c) Adults	...	...	...	...	...	11	22	33
Total	...	...	...	...	...	347	375	722

2. RE-VACCINATION:

						Males.	Females.	Total
(a) Pre-School Children	...	...	...			3	1	4
(b) School Children	...	...	...			4	3	7
(c) Adults	...	...	...	...	...	45	49	94
Total	...	...	...	...	...	52	53	105

B — Diphtheria Immunisation

INCOMPLETE:

						Males.	Females.	Total
(a) Pre-School Children	...	...	...			36	31	67
(b) School Children	...	...	...			—	—	—
Total	...	...	...	...	...	36	31	67

COMPLETED:

						Males.	Females.	Total
(a) Pre-School Children	...	...	...			372	333	705
(b) School Children	...	...	...			7	2	9
Total	...	...	...	...	...	379	335	714

						Males.	Females.	Total
Re-Immunised.	All Children	...	...			43	52	95

C — Whooping Cough Immunisation

						Males.	Females.	Total
(a)	Pre-School Children	...	...	...		510	452	962
(b)	School Children	...	...	...		6	8	14
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Total	...	...	...	...	516	460	976
						<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

These figures are not final, as records are still being received for services performed during 1957.

VACCINATION AGAINST POLIOMYELITIS

The Scheme for the vaccination against Poliomyelitis continued throughout the year. At the beginning of the year there were 3,020 children born between the years 1947—54 on the register awaiting vaccination, 2,937 of whom had not had any injections, 83 had had one injection. In addition a further 700 applications for registration were received during the year from parents of children within this age group.

In June the Ministry further extended the scheme to include children born in the years 1955 and 1956. 1,496 children in this age group were registered in July, and applications for registration continued to be received throughout the remainder of the year.

At the end of the year there were 2,835 children on the register awaiting vaccination, of whom only 450 had had one injection, the remainder had had none.

The following vaccinations were carried out during the year:—

Number of children who received two injections during the year	...	...	...	...	...	2,623
Number of children who received their second injection during the year, having had their first injection the previous year	...	...	...	...	...	73
Number of children who received the first injection only during the year	...	...	...	...	...	450

The Vaccinations were carried out at the following Centres:—

Ellesmere Port, Little Sutton, Upton, Hoole, Divisional Office, Chester, Huntington, Kelsall, Tarvin, Tattenhall, Malpas, Farndon, Saughall, Christleton, Ince, Barrow, Pulford, Dodleston, Tarporley, and Mickle Trafford.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED, 1957

District	Disease																			
	Scarlet Fever		Whooping Cough		Measles		Pneumonia		Dysentery		Food Poisoning		Erysipelas	Acute Poliomyelitis				Acute Encephalitis	Puerperal Pyrexia	
														Paralytic	Non- Paralytic	F.	M.			F.
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	F.			
Ellesmere Port Municipal Borough	3	1	28	38	623	595	16	16	11	6	8	1	3	1	1	1	—	1	1	3
Chester Rural District ..	2	1	12	22	132	95	16	9	—	2	3	4	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tarvin Rural District ..	—	3	17	32	49	41	7	4	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
TOTALS ..	5	5	57	92	804	731	39	29	11	8	11	5	5	2	1	1	—	1	1	3

STATISTICS RELATING TO CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS ON NOTIFICATION REGISTERS OF DISTRICT COUNCILS IN
THE DIVISION

	MALES			FEMALES			TOTAL		
	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total	Pulmonary	Non-Pulmonary	Total Cases
1. Cases on Register at 1.1.57.....	244	90	334	240	79	319	484	169	653
2. Cases notified and transfers into area during year.....	30	2	32	23	6	29	53	8	61
3. Number of cases removed from Register during year.....	13	3	16	11	—	11	24	3	27
4. Cases on Register at 31.12.57	261	89	350	252	85	337	513*	174*	687*

*These figures are made up as follows:—

	Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.	Total
1. Ellesmere Port M.B.	.. 254	83	337
2. Chester R.D.C.	.. .. 162	38	200
3. Tarvin R.D.C.	.. .. 97	53	150
Total	.. 513	174	687

B.C.G. VACCINATION

The scheme for the B.C.G. Vaccination of school children between their 13th and 14th Birthdays continued throughout the year.

The following is a summary of the work carried out:—

No. of Consent Forms issued	...	...	...	...	...	706
No. of Children for whom Consent Forms were returned						526
No. of Children tested by Mantoux Test	...	...	...			482
No. of Children positive to Mantoux Test			...	...		97
No. of Children Vaccinated with B.C.G.	...	...	...			358
No. of Children given 8 weeks follow up Mantoux Test						483
No. of Children positive to follow up Mantoux Test						452
No. of Children given 12 months follow up				„	„	179
No. of Children positive to 12 months follow up					„	154

AMBULANCE SERVICE

The total mileage performed by the vehicles of the Divisional Ambulance Service is very much the same as in the previous year. The number of patients transported however, shewed an increase of 2,350 patients over the previous year.

A new Bedford Dual Purpose vehicle was received in September, replacing Austin Sitting Case Car NMB 736. The Austin Sitting Case car was sold through the Measham Motor Sales Organisation for the sum of £339 4s. 6d.

The Humber Ambulance MLG 928 was fitted with a reconditioned engine and clutch assembly.

A Stephenson Minuteman Resuscitator was purchased at a cost of £128 3s. 0d.

The Supervisor was awarded a 5 year Medal, and four Driver/Attendants were awarded Diplomas by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents.

	No. of vehicles	Total No. of Journeys	Total No. Patients Carried	No. of Accident and Emergency journeys inc. in Col. 3	Total Mileage
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
A. Directly Provided:					
Ambulances	3	2,074	5,859	691	42,737
Cars	4	2,776	10,178	236	97,233
B. By Agency:					
Ambulances	5	2,686	2,686	314	17,873
Cars	—	—	—	—	—
(Chester City Ambulance).					
C. Supplementary:					
Ambulances	—	8	8	6	173
Cars	—	113	138	—	4,547
(W.V.S. Taxi, etc.)					

A comparative Statement on the costs of the Ambulance Service for the year ended 31st March, 1957, was received from the County Treasurer, and the cost per mile was $2\frac{2}{3}\text{d.}$ per mile. The average cost throughout the County was $2\frac{3}{4}\text{d.}$ per mile.

The personnel establishment of the Ambulance Service is as follows:—

- 1 Supervisor
- 1 Senior Driver
- 13 Driver Attendants
- 1 Driver Mechanic
- 1 Female Cleaner (part time)

DOMESTIC HELP SERVICE

The demand for the Domestic Help Service remained constant throughout the year. Apart from 23 cases, the help has been given to aged persons who are infirm and in need of assistance. The number of hours that domestic help is given to each patient varies from 3 hours to 44 hours per week, and the duration of the Service varies in accordance with the need of each particular case. In some cases the need is a permanent one, in other cases temporary for those awaiting admission to hospital or a County Welfare Home, or in many cases for the remainder of the patients life.

The following is a summary of the cases of continued need at the end of the year:—

4 cases have had Domestic Help for 6 years
 4 cases have had Domestic Help for 5 years
 2 cases have had Domestic Help for 4 years
 3 cases have had Domestic Help for 3 years
 8 cases have had Domestic Help for 2 years
 13 cases have had Domestic Help for 1 year
 24 cases have had Domestic Help for less than 1 year

Every effort was made in conjunction with the Health Visitors, to keep the costs down to a minimum without impairing the efficiency of the service.

The following is a summary of the work carried out during the year:—

A — Number of new applicants	...	...	...	...	94
(of these 24 were cancelled).					
B — Number of Domestic Helps employed at 31.12.57					53
C — Number of cases attended during the year			...		120
D — Number of cases of continued need at 31.12.57					58

30 cases were brought to the attention of the Committee during the year.

8 cases were defined as Future Recovery cases.

8 Future Recovery cases were cancelled.

In 1 Future Recovery case weekly payments were accepted from the accumulative balance.

In 4 Future Recovery cases collection was deferred.

In 1 Future Recovery case the County Treasurer was authorised to recover the accumulative balance.

In 3 cases, the debt was cancelled.

In 1 case the debt was referred to the County Clerk for necessary action.

In 4 cases the assessment was reduced.

PREVENTION OF ILLNESS — CARE AND AFTERCARE. TUBERCULOSIS.

A — Number of cases investigated in Division:—

(1) Tuberculosis:

(a) No. of Forms C and A.C. 4 completed (Primary Investigation)	...	...	...	...	36
(b) No. of Forms C and A.C. 22 completed (Follow up visits)	...	...	...	...	271

(c) No. of cases where patient has been found to have:—	
(a) Removed from area	8
(b) Been cured	—
(c) Recovered	11
(d) Died	8

(2) Other than Tuberculosis

All cases of chronic illness awaiting admission to Chronic Wards or suitable Institutions are visited regularly by Health Visitors until admission is effected.

B — Number of cases placed in employment (Disabled Persons Act) ... Nil

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948 — PART III

In my capacity as the Representative of the County Medical Officer of Health, I carried out two visits of inspection to Shotwick House, Great Saughall. Very little change had taken place since 1956, and the excellent conditions of this establishment continued to maintain a high level.

ESTIMATES 1958/59

Estimates for the year 1958/59 were submitted, and following is a summary of the items recommended to the County Health Committee for approval and inclusion in the block estimates:—

	£
Welfare Centres	2,330
Day Nursery	2,485
Midwifery	185
Health Visiting	30
Home Nursing	1,455
Vaccination and Immunisation	690
Poliomyelitis Vaccination	305
Ambulance Service	6,745
Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care	325
Domestic Helps	3,950
Administration	6,410
Payment of County Districts for Notifications of Infectious Diseases	250
	<hr/>
	£25,160
	<hr/>

THE 'ATOM' PRINTERS
ELLESMERE PORT